

"UNIDEAL! And the Radical Scriptures"

Remain as You Are in a Live Your Dream Age! Or... Living Well the Unpreferred Life"

1Corinthians 7:17-40

May 26, 2019

INTRO... Living the Dream Life

...It's Called "The American Dream" ... "The Land of Opportunity" ... "The Golden Age" ... Beer Commercials described it as "Grabbing All the Gusto" you can ...the Digital Age calls it "An Upgrade" ...McDonalds called it "Supersizing" ...author & counselor Paul Tripp titled it "The Quest for More" ...

...Without any official notice or clear moment of decision on our part—this seeps into our motivational DNA, and the next thing we know, we are all caught up in the "All-consuming Quest" to "Get Ahead" to "Dream Big" to "Achieve" to "Have It All"

- ***Is That Wrong?***...
 - ***Simply—NO!***
 - ***HOWEVER***...Their message and words and attitude are injected into the hearts of people WITHOUT REGARD for their Spiritual Orientation, Spiritual Maturity, and Kingdom Mindedness!! ...They Steal Kingdom Comments and make them "UNTETHERED-Generic Motivators" that Anyone Can Use for Whatever They Personally Want!

Then... these people spend their Christian Lives "taking-God-to-Court" and managing Disillusionment and Questioning the Goodness of God—FOR YEARS!!

So... No it isn't WRONG to be a Dreamer or Achiever or a Person with ambitions ...but it is Wrong to be a Malcontent ...to possess Citizenship in the Eternal Kingdom of God ...to have Direct access to & Experience of the Presence of God ...to have Received THE Eternal Hope of all Hopes ...to Have the Wealthy/Abundant /Overflowing Downpayment of the Holy Spirit in Our Possession

...And YET, to Be UNHAPPY and Desperate for Something Else to "FIX US"!!!

- ***Could You Have Been Pastored by the Apostle Paul ...If THIS is What His Sunday Messages Sounded Like?***

1Cor 7:17-40**v. 17 ...This is a Summary Statement of Massive Gravity for Every Follower of Christ ...**

“Under the theme of ‘call’ Paul seeks to put their ‘spirituality’ into a radically different perspective. They should remain in whatever social setting they were at the time of their call since God’s call to be in Christ transcends such settings so as to make them essentially irrelevant. That is, the call to Christ has created such a change in one’s essential relationship (with God) that one does not need to seek change in other relationships (with people). These latter are transformed and given new meaning by the former. Thus one is no better off in one condition than in the other. ...To make this point Paul illustrates from two other kinds of social settings—circumcision and slavery.” Gordon Fee, “The 1st Epistle to the Corinthians”, p. 307, NICNT

...Paul shifts these ‘other categories’ of life into secondary positions, where they no longer carry the same weight to determine one’s happiness and self-definition! ...When God is in His rightful place in our hearts, it changes the way we ‘NEED’ everyone & everything else!!

- Then, he applies it to the sort of issues they would be facing in their lives
 - **v. 18-19 ...Circumcision**
 - **v. 21-23 ...Bondservant**

“Likewise, ‘the person who was free when called is Christ’s slave.’ ...The implied imperative... would go something like: ‘We’re you a free person when called? Don’t let that be a matter of importance to you.’ And why not? ‘Because the free person who has been called to be in fellowship with Christ is in fact Christ’s slave.’ That is, even though such people too have been ‘set free’ in Christ, they have come into a relationship with Christ that can best be described by the metaphor of ‘slavery.’ Our calling has eliminated the option of belonging to ourselves. We belong to another, Christ.” Gordon Fee, “The 1st Epistle to the Corinthians”, p. 319

- **v. 25-27 ...Betrothed and Unmarried**
- **v. 40 ...the Widowed**

...Paul shifts these 'other categories' of life into secondary positions, where they no longer carry the same weight to determine one's happiness and self-definition!

"...when you are called into the fellowship of Christ, you gain a new set of radically Christ-centered priorities; so much so that if you are a slave, it should not cause you to fret. "Were you a slave when called? Never mind." Is yours a menial job? Never mind. Is it a job that is not esteemed as highly as other professions? Never mind. This is the same point he was making with cultural differences like circumcision: Were you uncircumcised? Never mind. Were you circumcised? Never mind." John Piper, "Your Job as Ministry"

- Then, he offers some "Kingdom Commentary" to support His teaching and convictions:
 - **v. 28-35** ...Paul's advice gets birthed out of his level for Kingdom Priorities and Personal Focus!! i.e. Paul sees the Kingdom of God as **OUTWEIGHING** anyone's Personal Goals, Dreams, Ambitions, and Priorities!—Including such fundamental life activities as "Social Affiliation" (circumcision), "Personal Freedom" (bondservants), and "Marriage"!!
 - **v. 28** ... *"Those who marry will have worldly troubles"* ...**v. 32-34**... the 'anxieties' of the married life—Did this get covered in your pre-marital Counseling
 - **v. 29-31** ...*Paul taught a Kingdom that **DISPLACED** Everything That Calls for Our Attention!! ...Everything!*
 - **Matt 6:33** ("But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.")
 - NOTHING is to Occupy Our Priorities Like the Activity of the Kingdom of God!! ...not food, clothing, provision ...not marriage or personal freedoms (& advancement)
 - LISTEN: **Until You "Get" These Kingdom Revelations—You're NOT READY to Use the Kingdom Credit Card!!**

James 4:1-10 What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? ² You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight

and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³ You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. ⁴ You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. ⁵ Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, "He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us"? ⁶ But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble." ⁷ Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸ Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹ Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰ Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

...When did we think we could understand how to live and operate in the power of God WITHOUT THESE VERSES???

...WHY these destructive elements in our relationships?? ...because we lack Kingdom Priorities--while our Personal Ambitions & Priorities are Strong & Influential in our Passions!

Prosperity Promoters and Dream Brokers almost NEVER include all these "Warnings" and "HEART CALIBRATION" Passages!! ...Listen, before you can play in the Orchestra of the Kingdom of God—You have to Tune Your Heart to the Kingdom Note that sounds like—"All Things Exist for the Glory of God"

- ***There are some here who are living the life that "God has assigned to you and to which God has called you" ...but it contains significant "UNPREFERRED" Portions!***

"The upshot of this is that whether a person is a slave or a freedman, it ought not be the cause of his despair or his pride. He ought to be able to say, "Never mind." He ought not to boast if he is a doctor or lawyer or executive, and he

ought not to be self-pitying or depressed if he has a job that society esteems less highly. "So brethren," Paul concludes in verse 24, "In whatever state each was called, let him remain with God." With God! There's the crucial phrase. What matters in life and in eternal life is staying close to God and enjoying his presence. What matters is not whether our job is high or low in man's eyes. What matters is whether we are being encouraged and humbled by the presence of God." John Piper, "Your Job as Ministry"

"Paul's intent is not to lay down a rule that one may not change; rather, by thus hallowing one's situation in life, he is trying to help the Corinthians see that their social status is ultimately irrelevant as such (ie they can live out their Christian life in any of the various options)." Gordon Fee, The 1st Epistle to the Corinthians, p. 311, NICNT

...For a Christian, the starting block of the adventurous life of a believer is their Conversion—it is not waiting on for Your Preferred Status or Achievement or Dream to kick in!!